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PATENTS, TRADEMARKS, COPYRIGHTS

WILLIAM M. HOBBY III
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April 25, 1991

Mr. James W. Caulk
1413 Bryant Street
Leesburg, Florida 32748

RE: Preliminary Patent Search
For: MAGNETIC VEHICLE SIGN
File: 91-523

Dear Mr. Caulk:

In accordance with your request, an investigation as to the patentability of the subject invention was made during my recent visit to the United States Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, D.C.

As you may be aware, pending patent applications are maintained in secrecy by the Patent and Trademark Office. Thus, I did not have access to those applications which have not yet matured into issued patents. Further, the Patent and Trademark Office does not classify foreign patents or scientific publications by technical matter. My search was, therefore, limited to issued United States patents as classified in the relevant areas of technology. Since this search was made to determine the patentability, the question of the possible infringement of any of the enclosed patents or any of the patents reviewed by products embodying your invention was not considered during this search.

Further, inasmuch as the search was made in the classified sets of the United States patents in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Reading Room, the integrity of the search is dependent upon the completeness and accuracy of those sets at that time.

Of the patents reviewed with respect to the subject invention, the following appear to represent the most pertinent prior art. Copies of these references are enclosed.

PATENT NO.	INVENTOR
2,957,261	Moskowitz
2,960,788	Wagner
3,148,856	Orlando
3,440,748	Hackley
4,287,676	Weinhaus

This search was directed towards a sign for the top of a vehicle which is attached to the top without the use of straps by using floating magnets which attach to the curvature of the roof of a vehicle which magnets are anchored in metal cups which are attached with rubber grommets to the framework for supporting the sign. The enclosed patent to Weinhaus, as shown in Figure 10, shows two methods of magnetically securing a display to a curved surface including one which looks similar to the suggestion in your invention having the magnetic placed in the housing which is supported on an arm passing through an enlarged opening to thus allow the magnet to take the shape of the curved surface. The enclosed Hackley patent shows the use of a flexible rubber-like material having a coefficient of friction and also having a magnetic surface for attaching a magnetic roof top sign to a curved surface of a vehicle top. The Orlando patent has a combination magnet and vacuum cup for supporting a signal. The Wagner patent has a magnetically attachable car top sign in which the magnets appear to be able to rock slightly to follow a curvature. The Moskowitz patent is a magnetic sign for vehicles which, in Figure 3, is placed on a curved surface.

The Weinhaus appears to be the most pertinent a shown in Figure 10. This embodiment differs from yours in not having a spherical surface on one end of its arm holding the magnet which rocks in a countersunk area. However, any protection that could be obtained on the invention would be only of a very limited nature.

If you have any questions regarding this search, please give me a call.

Best regards,

William M. Hobby, III
WMH/bjl